

WELSH BOARD

15 JUL 1956

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BOROUGH OF DENBIGH

**ANNUAL
HEALTH REPORT
1955**

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

M. JONES ROBERTS, M.B., Ch.B., D.P.H.

The Clinic, Middle Lane, DENBIGH

Tel. No. : Denbigh 289

SANITARY INSPECTOR

TREVOR H. ALDRICH, A.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.

Council Offices, Whitehall, DENBIGH

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**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors of the
Borough of Denbigh**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on the health of the Borough during the year 1955.

The Sanitary Inspector and I would like to thank the Members of the Council and the various Committees for their co-operation and assistance during the year and we would thank the other Officials and members of the Staff for the assistance they have given us at all times.

Yours faithfully,

M. JONES ROBERTS.

The Mayor of the Council and Chairmen of the Committees during the year were as follows:

Mayor of the Borough:

Alderman Mrs. EUNICE EVANS.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee:

January to May, 1955: Alderman ROBERT HUGHES.
June to December, 1955: Councillor T. J. DAVIES.

Chairman of the Housing Committee:

January to May, 1955: Coun. R. FREEMAN EVANS.
June to December, 1955: Councillor I. L. WATKINS.

GENERAL STATISTICS OF THE BOROUGH

| | |
|---|---------------|
| Area of Borough | 9,072 (acres) |
| Registrar General's estimated population (mid 1955) | 7,910 (acres) |
| Number of inhabited houses | 2,130 |
| Rateable Value | £39,625 |
| Product of a penny rate | £153 |

Population

The estimated population of the Borough in 1955 was 7,910, compared with 7,930 in 1954, a decrease of 20.

The number of inhabited houses was 2,130, compared with 2,100 in 1954, an increase of 30.

DEATHS

Comparability Factor 0.81

The number of deaths registered during 1955 was 183 (83 Males and 100 Females), compared with 194 deaths (97 Males and 97 Females) registered in 1954.

| | England and Wales, 1955 | | 1954 | 1955 | |
|---|----------------------------|-----|-------|------|-------|
| Crude death rate (per 1,000 population) | 11.7 | ... | 24.97 | ... | 23.13 |
| Corrected death rate (per 1,000 population) ... | — | ... | 20.21 | ... | 18.73 |
| Still-birth rate | 23.1 | ... | 0.75 | ... | 0.75 |
| Maternal Mortality rate | 0.64 | ... | 8.62 | ... | Nil |
| Infant Mortality rate (per 1,000 live births) ... | 24.9 | ... | 18.18 | ... | 8.93 |

The causes of death are shown in the following table with the number of deaths for 1954 shown for comparison:

| | 1954 | 1955 | | |
|---|-------|-------|-------|---------|
| | Total | Total | Males | Females |
| Poliomyelitis | — | — | — | — |
| Tuberculosis—Respiratory | 5 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Tuberculosis—Other | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Syphilitic Diseases | 2 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Diphtheria | — | — | — | — |
| Whooping Cough | — | — | — | — |
| Meningococcal Infections | — | — | — | — |
| Measles | — | — | — | — |
| Other infective and parasitic diseases .. | 2 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Malignant Diseases : | | | | |
| Stomach | 3 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Lungs, &c. | — | 1 | — | 1 |
| Breast | 1 | 3 | — | 3 |
| Uterus | 1 | 3 | — | 3 |
| Other | 11 | 15 | 9 | 6 |
| Total Cancer Deaths | —16 | —27 | —13 | —14 |
| Leukæmia | — | 2 | — | 2 |
| Diabetes | — | 2 | — | 2 |
| Vascular lesions of the nervous system. | 20 | 21 | 8 | 13 |
| Coronary Diseases | 25 | 18 | 10 | 8 |
| Hypertension with heart diseases | 6 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Other heart diseases | 56 | 62 | 27 | 35 |
| Other circulatory diseases | 2 | 3 | 1 | 2 |
| Influenza | — | — | — | — |
| Pneumonia | 19 | 4 | 3 | 1 |
| Bronchitis | 2 | 5 | 4 | 1 |
| Other respiratory diseases | 4 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Ulcer of stomach &c. | 4 | 1 | — | 1 |
| Gastritis, diarrhœa, &c. | — | — | — | — |
| Nephritis and nephrosis | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Prostatic Hyperplasia | 2 | 3 | 3 | — |
| Maternal causes | 1 | — | — | — |
| Congenital malformations | 1 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Other defined and ill-defined diseases .. | 14 | 14 | 3 | 11 |
| Motor vehicle accidents | 1 | 1 | 1 | — |
| All other accidents | 6 | 3 | — | 3 |
| Suicide | 1 | — | — | — |
| Homicide | — | 2 | 2 | — |
| ALL CAUSES | 194 | 183 | 83 | 100 |

The deaths occurred in the following age groups :

| | | |
|-------------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|
| Under 1 year | 1 (Male) | |
| 1-10 years | 1 (Female) | |
| 10-20 years | — | |
| 20-30 years | 1 (Female) | |
| 30-40 years | 3 (1 Male and 2 Females) | |
| 40-50 years | 9 (5 Males and 4 Females) | |
| 50-60 years | 23 (8 Males and 15 Females) | |
| 60-70 years | 29 (20 Males and 9 Females) | |
| 70-80 years | 67 (31 Males and 36 Females) | |
| 80-90 years | 46 (17 Males and 29 Females) | |
| 90 years and over | 3 (Females) | |
| Total | 183 | (83 Males and 100 Females) |

Of these 183 deaths, 144 occurred in people aged 60 years and over. 101 deaths occurred in patients resident at the North Wales Counties Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders, Denbigh.

The death rate has been reduced to 18.73, compared with 20.21 in 1954, and 11.7 for England and Wales.

There were 3 deaths due to pulmonary tuberculosis and 1 due to non-pulmonary tuberculosis. There were two other cases of pulmonary tuberculosis removed from the register having died from heart disease and cancer respectively. One of the cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and the case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis were notified on the death returns.

Four deaths were due to pneumonia compared with 19 in 1954. There were no other deaths from any of the other notifiable infectious diseases.

There were 27 deaths due to cancer compared with 16 the previous year, one of these being due to cancer of the lung.

Deaths from lesions of the heart and vascular system amounted to 108 compared with 109 in 1954.

Four deaths were due to accidents. One was a motor vehicle accident, one (in a person aged 76 years) was due to a fractured femur following a fall and two (in persons aged 63 years and 76 years) were due to falls causing subdural hæmorrhage following head injuries.

Maternal Mortality

The maternal mortality rate was NIL compared with 8.62 in 1954 and 0.64 for England and Wales.

Infant Deaths

The infant mortality rate was 8.93 compared with 18.18 in 1954 and 24.9 for England and Wales.

The actual number of infant deaths was one. This occurred in a baby aged 5 weeks and the cause of death was heart failure and congenital heart disease. The home conditions were good and ante-natal supervision of the mother had been adequate. This death was unavoidable.

Still-births

The still-birth rate was 0.75 which was the same as in 1954 and compares with 23.1 for England and Wales.

The actual number of still-births was six and this was the same as in 1954.

The total loss of infant lives during the year was seven.

BIRTHS

Comparability factor 1.09.

The actual number of births registered in the Borough during the year was 218 (120 Males and 98 Females), but of these only 112 (56 Males and 56 Females) related to residents compared with 110 births (58 Males and 52 Females) in 1954.

These births were classified as follows:

| | Males | | Females | | Total |
|--------------------|-------|-----|---------|-----|-------|
| Legitimate | 55 | ... | 54 | ... | 109 |
| Illegitimate | 1 | ... | 2 | ... | 3 |
| | — | | — | | — |
| Total | 56 | ... | 56 | ... | 112 |
| | — | | — | | — |

| | England and Wales, 1955 | | 1954 | | 1955 |
|---|----------------------------|-----|-------|-----|-------|
| Crude birth rate (per 1,000 population) | 15.0 | ... | 13.87 | ... | 14.16 |
| Corrected birth rate (per 1,000 population) | — | ... | 15.12 | ... | 15.51 |

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

The following table shows the number of cases of infectious diseases notified during 1955 arranged in the various age groups. The number of cases notified during 1954 is given in the first column for comparison.

| Notifiable Disease | At Ages | | | | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|------------|------------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------------|---|
| | 1954 Total | 1955 Total | Under 1 yr. | 1-5 years | 6-15 years | 16-25 years | 26-45 years | 46-65 years | 65 years and over | Ages unknown No admitted to hospital |
| Puerperal Pyrexia | - | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Whooping Cough | 57 | 17 | 3 | 13 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - |
| Poliomyelitis (Paralytic) | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Measles | 319 | 11 | 5 | 6 | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| Pneumonia | 3 | 5 | - | 2 | 2 | - | 1 | - | - | 1 |
| Dysentery | - | 4 | - | - | 1 | - | - | 1 | 2 | - |
| Enteritis | - | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | 4 |
| Erysipelas | 2 | 1 | - | - | - | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Food Poisoning | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | - | 1 | - | - | - |
| Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 38 | 22 | - | 1 | 1 | 4 | 6 | 6 | 4 | - |
| Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis | 4 | 1 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | - |
| Totals | 424 | 68 | 8 | 22 | 6 | 4 | 10 | 7 | 7 | 4 |
| | | | | | | | | | | 3 |

The total number of cases of infectious diseases (including tuberculosis) notified during the year was 68 compared with 424 cases notified in 1954. The decrease was due to the fact that there was a measles epidemic in the Borough in 1954. Also, the number of cases of whooping cough notified was only 17 during 1955 compared with 57 cases in 1954.

There were 5 cases of pneumonia compared with 3 the previous year. Four of these cases occurred in children under 15 years of age.

Four cases of dysentery were notified during the year. Three of these cases occurred at the North Wales Counties Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders and the fourth case was notified after the patient had been admitted to hospital. This case was investigated, but the source of infection was not traced and no further cases were notified.

The four cases of enteritis were investigated, but no causative organism was found.

The case of puerperal pyrexia occurred in a patient who had been admitted from another area to the Infirmary.

One case of erysipelas was notified during the year compared with 2 cases during the previous year.

Two cases of food poisoning were notified together with 2 further cases which were not confirmed. These patients were on a coach trip with approximately 120 others, 14 of whom were taken ill at Dolgelley and notified there as suffering from food poisoning. The 14 patients admitted to hospital at Dolgelley were investigated but no reports were received following these investigations. Food left over after the journey and food found at the canteen concerned were sent for bacteriological examination and the report showed that the food was contaminated by staphylococcus pyogenes Group III. Swabs were taken from the hands and nose of the canteen staff and sent for examination. Reports showed that the same germ was isolated from one of the assistants. The case was followed up and further swabs were taken by her doctor and these proved negative.

Twenty-two cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified compared with 28 the previous year and 1 case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis compared with 4 cases during 1954. Of these, 5 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis and the case of non-pulmonary tuberculosis occurred at the North Wales Counties Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders, two of which were notified on the death returns.

Ten other cases of pulmonary tuberculosis were transferred to the register during the year in respect of patients admitted to the North Wales Counties Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders. Two cases were restored to the register having been removed during a previous quarter. One other case of pulmonary tuberculosis was transferred to the register the patient having come to reside in the Borough from another area.

Twenty-eight cases of tuberculosis were removed from the register during the year. Seventeen of the patients went to reside in other areas, five died and six recovered.

The following table shows the number of cases on the tuberculosis register at the beginning and at the end of 1955.

| | Pulmonary | | Non-Pulmonary | |
|--|-----------|---------|---------------|---------|
| | Males | Females | Males | Females |
| Number on register on 1st January, 1955 ... | 69 | 39 | 10 | 13 |
| Number on register on 31st December, 1955 .. | *77 | *40 | 10 | 12 |

*These figures include 56 cases of pulmonary tuberculosis (50 Males and 6 Females) at the North Wales Counties Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders who are counted as residents of the Borough as they are long-term patients here.

Twelve patients were admitted to hospitals or sanatoria during the year and ten cases were discharged during the same period.

PREVENTION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Diphtheria and Whooping Cough

Again there were no cases of diphtheria notified during the year which shows that immunisation against this disease is most effective. The fact that there are so few cases of whooping cough also shows that immunisation against it is satisfactory. It is hoped that whooping cough will eventually disappear from the community, but this will depend on the immunisation state of the child population.

The diphtheria and whooping cough inoculations are given together in one injection and three of these injections are given at monthly intervals. In the past, the first injection was given at the age of six months, but in future the injections will be given at the ages of three, four and five months. The reason for this is that babies are liable to get whooping cough when they are very young and the damage done to their lungs may be serious at this stage. A booster injection is given as soon as possible after the child begins school. From January, 1956, this first booster injection is to be a combined one against both diseases. The booster injection given when the child is aged ten years will, from January, 1956, be given at eight years of age.

It is most important that parents should make certain that their children do not miss these injections. They can be given by the child's own doctor, at the Clinic or at the school.

The number of children immunised during 1955 was as follows:

| | Whooping Cough | Diphtheria Only | Combined Whooping Cough and Diphtheria | | | Booster |
|---------------------|----------------|-----------------|--|-----|----|---------|
| Under 5 years | - | ... | 25 | ... | 48 | - |
| Over 5 years | - | ... | 14 | ... | - | 307 |

Smallpox

I have time and again stressed the importance of vaccination against smallpox as this is most essential. Vaccination has been

carried out at the Clinics when babies are aged three months. Due to the fact that immunisation against diphtheria and whooping cough is going to be carried out at an earlier age, babies will be vaccinated at the Clinic when they are eight weeks old.

Vaccination can be given by the child's own doctor or at the Clinic.

The number of vaccinations carried out during the year was as follows:

| | |
|--------------------------------------|----|
| Number given primary vaccination ... | 48 |
| Number re-vaccinated | 5 |

Tuberculosis

All notified cases of tuberculosis are followed up by the Tuberculosis Health Visitor who sends a report on the housing conditions to me. Any defects found are followed up by the Sanitary Inspector and myself and if, in our opinion, the family should be re-housed, a letter is sent to the Housing Committee.

Contacts are followed up and arrangements are made for them to be examined by the Chest Physician, for X-ray and for vaccination by B.C.G. when necessary.

Arrangements for mass vaccination of infants and children have not yet been carried out by the County Health Service.

The Mass Radiography Unit visited the Borough during the year and the following tables show how many of the general population and schoolchildren attended for X-ray examination and the details of abnormalities found:

WELSH REGIONAL HOSPITAL BOARD — MASS RADIOGRAPHY SERVICE

Details of Mass Radiographic Survey carried out amongst the General Population and Schoolchildren at Denbigh in May, 1955

Analysis in Age Groups

| | GRAND TOTAL | Under 15 | | 15-24 | | 25-34 | | 35-44 | | 45-59 | | 60 & Over | | Totals | |
|--|----------------|----------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-------|-----|-----------|----|--------|------|
| | | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. | M. | F. |
| Total number examined .. | 1643 | 147 | 336 | 99 | 396 | 76 | 127 | 72 | 111 | 82 | 132 | 35 | 30 | 511 | 1132 |
| Number found to be abnormal | 63 | - | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 11 | 7 | 3 | 24 | 39 |
| Classification of abnormal cases : | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| (a) Pulmonary tuberculosis | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - | - |
| (b) Requiring further observation | 4 | - | - | - | - | - | - | 1 | 1 | - | 2 | - | - | 1 | 3 |
| (c) Other | 59 | - | 5 | 4 | 9 | 2 | 4 | 5 | 6 | 5 | 9 | 7 | 3 | 23 | 36 |

DETAILS OF ABNORMALITIES FOUND

General Population and Schoolchildren, Denbigh, May, 1955

| | General Population (including schoolchildren) | | | Schoolchildren Only | | |
|--|--|-------|---------|---------------------|-------|---------|
| | Total | Males | Females | Total | Males | Females |
| Requiring further observation for | | | | | | |
| tuberculosis | 4 | 1 | 3 | — | — | — |
| Bony Abnormality—congenital | 11 | 3 | 8 | 5 | — | 5 |
| Bony Abnormality—acquired | 4 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | — |
| Bronchiectasis | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Emphysema | 2 | 1 | 1 | — | — | — |
| Benign Tumours of lungs and mediastinum | 1 | — | 1 | — | — | — |
| Pleural Thickening (non-tubercu- lous | 10 | 3 | 7 | — | — | — |
| Abnormality of diaphragm and oesophagus | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Abnormality of heart—acquired ... | 5 | 2 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 1 |
| Healed post primary P.T. | 23 | 11 | 12 | 3 | — | 3 |
| Miscellaneous | 1 | 1 | — | — | — | — |
| Totals | 63 | 24 | 39 | 11 | 2 | 9 |

The above figures include children from the surrounding rural area attending schools in the Borough and also a few adults from the rural district who attended for X-ray examination.

The number of visits made by the Sanitary Inspector regarding infectious diseases was as follows:

| | |
|--|----|
| Number of visits to investigate cases of Infectious Diseases ... | 30 |
| Number of premises disinfected | 10 |

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT

Laboratory Service

The Public Health Laboratory at Conway is under the direction of Dr. Kingsley Smith. Samples of water, milk and ice-cream are regularly sent there for bacteriological examination. Various other types of bacteriological examinations are carried out to aid in the diagnosis of illness, e.g. food poisoning, scarlet fever, meningitis, etc.

Ambulance Service

This service is controlled by the County Medical Officer of Health.

There are four ambulance stations in the Western No. 2 Health Area situated at Denbigh, Ruthin, Llanrwst and Cerrigy-drudion with one ambulance at each station. The ambulance station at Llangernyw ceased on 31/3/55.

Each station is manned by voluntary personnel. To supplement the ambulances, use is made of voluntary drivers of the W.V.S. Hospital Car Service and local taxi proprietors for the conveyance of sitting cases. Ambulances for the conveyance of infectious cases are sent from the hospitals concerned at Wrexham and Colwyn Bay.

The following is given for the information of the Council and the numbers refer to cases conveyed by the various ambulances and the mileage for the year:

| Name of Ambulance | Area served | No. of cases conveyed | Total Mileage |
|----------------------|---|-----------------------|---------------|
| Cerrigydrudion | Upper Hiraethog | 85 | 3407 |
| Denbigh | Denbigh Borough, Parts of Aled R.D. and Ruthin R.D. | 459 | 9070 |
| Llangernyw | Llangernyw, Gwytherin, Pandy Tudur and part of Eglwysbach | 4 | 164 |
| Llanrwst..... | Llanrwst and District | 165 | 5245 |
| Ruthin | Ruthin Borough and Ruthin R.D. | 413 | 11899 |

Cases conveyed by sitting case cars

| | No. of journeys | No. of cases | Mileage |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|---------|
| 1955 | | | |
| January | 165 | 443 | 7,157 |
| February | 132 | 375 | 6,386 |
| March | 200 | 544 | 8,565 |
| April | 174 | 446 | 8,199 |
| May | 202 | 541 | 8,919 |
| June | 204 | 614 | 8,997 |
| July | 200 | 587 | 8,804 |
| August | 216 | 658 | 9,973 |
| September | 184 | 498 | 9,198 |
| October | 185 | 507 | 7,586 |
| November | 199 | 629 | 8,386 |
| December | 194 | 562 | 7,313 |
| TOTALS | 2,255 | 6,404 | 99,483 |

Mental Health Service

This service is under the supervision of the County Medical Officer of Health.

Orthopaedic Clinics

Patients from the Borough attend the Orthopaedic Clinics held weekly at the Royal Alexandra Hospital at Rhyl and at the Denbigh Clinic on the first and third Wednesday morning each month (Surgeons from Oswestry Orthopaedic Hospital attend once every three months).

Venereal Diseases

These clinics are held at hospitals in Llandudno, Wrexham, Chester and Bangor.

Tuberculosis Clinics

Patients from the Borough attend the Chest Clinic held every Wednesday morning at the Denbigh Infirmary. Clinics are also held at Wrexham and Rhyl each week.

Ante-Natal Clinics

This clinic is held on alternate Wednesday mornings and the Consultant Clinic is held on alternate Friday mornings at which session the Consultant sees cases referred from the routine clinic or by the patient's own doctor.

Patients from Ruthin Borough, Ruthin Rural District, Aled Rural District as well as from Denbigh attend these clinics.

The number of attendances at these clinics during the year was as follows:

| | |
|--------------------|-------|
| First Visits | 91 |
| Re-visits | 147 |
| Post-Natal | 14 |
| Gynae | 41 |
| | <hr/> |
| Total | 293 |
| | <hr/> |

Patients who are admitted to St. Asaph Hospital for confinement attend the clinic attached to that hospital.

Infant Welfare Clinics

This clinic is held every Wednesday afternoon and full use is being made of this service. The following figures show the number of attendances at these clinics during the year:

| | |
|--------------------|-------------|
| First Visits | 128 |
| Re-visits | 1276 |
| Total | <u>1404</u> |

Mothers from Ruthin Rural District and Aled Rural District also bring their babies to this clinic and they are included in the above attendance figure.

Welfare Foods and Cow and Gate Dried Milk are distributed during the clinic sessions on Wednesday afternoons and Welfare Foods are also available on Friday afternoons. Welfare Foods are also available at a depot in Henllan which is open every day.

Dental Clinic

This clinic is held at the Denbigh Clinic as and when necessary. Cases are referred from the Ante-Natal and Infant Welfare Clinics. Expectant and nursing mothers and toddlers attend for examination and treatment. As most children seem to attend the Dental Surgeons in the Borough, a regular clinic is not held, but clinics are held regularly for schoolchildren.

| | |
|--|---|
| Number of cases referred for treatment | 9 |
| Number of cases completed treatment | 5 |

Nursing Services

| | |
|--|---|
| Number of Home Helps | 9 |
| Number of Health Visitors | 1 |
| Number of Tuberculosis Health Visitors | 1 |
| Number of District Nurses | 4 |

Care of the Aged

Several cases of aged people living alone and in need of care and attention were brought to my notice during the year. These were followed up and with the willing co-operation of the Health Visitor, home helps were directed to assist in cleaning the homes, do the shopping, prepare the meals, etc., for them, and it was thus possible for these aged people to remain at home instead of entering a Home for the Aged.

Although such Homes are useful, old people do not like to leave their homes where they have lived for years, especially to enter somewhere situated away from their family, place of worship and shops. Small bungalows in the community are much more satisfactory than palatial homes for the aged.

It was not necessary to take action under Section 47 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, during the year.

One burial under Section 50 of the National Assistance Act, 1948, took place during the year.

Sewerage Disposal

The built-up area in the Borough is serviced by the Council's sewers. Work is at present being carried out at the Council's new sewerage works and it is hoped that this scheme will be completed and in use during the summer of 1956.

The sewage works at the Green is old and defective and its modernisation has been considered by the Council.

The Henllan area is served by new sewers and a new sewage disposal works.

There are a few outlying cottages and farms in the area that rely on septic tanks and earth closets.

Schools

A number of much needed improvements were carried out to schools within the Borough within the year particularly with regard to the decoration, lighting and heating arrangements of certain schools. It is still to be regretted, however, that the sanitary accommodation at some of the schools is out-of-date, being easily subject to frost damage and without artificial light. Hand washbasins are generally inadequate at schools and lack hot water.

It is difficult to see how hygiene can be taught at schools where the elementary requirements for hand-washing are not available.

Factories Act, 1937—1948

The Factories in the Borough have been inspected. Minor contraventions of the Factories Act, where noted, were dealt with at the time of inspection in an informal manner. It was found necessary to serve written notices on only three occasions.

No outworkers are registered under Section 110—111 of the above Act.

FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948

Part I of the Act

1. Inspection for purposes of provision as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors.

| Premises (1) | M/c line No. (2) | Number of Register (3) | Number of | | M/c inc No. (7) |
|--|---------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| | | | Inspec- tions (4) | Written Notices (5) | |
| (i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities | 1 | 9 | 9 | - | 1 |
| (ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority | 2 | 47 | 36 | 3 | 2 |
| (iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out- workers' premises | 3 | 9 | 11 | - | 3 |
| Total | | 65 | 56 | 3 | None |

2. Cases in which defects were found

(if defect are discovered at the premises on two, three or more separate occasions they should be reckoned as two, three or more cases.)

| Particulars (1) | Number of cases in which defects were found | | | | | |
|---|---|--------------|-----------------|---|---|---|
| | M/c inc No. (2) | Found (3) | Remedied (4) | Referred To H.M. Inspector (5) | Referred By H.M. Inspector (6) | No. of cases in which prosecutions were instituted (7) |
| Sanitary Conveniences (S.7) : | | | | | | M/c line No. (8) |
| (a) Unsuitable or defective | 10 | 2 | 2 | | 2 | 10 |
| Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to Out- work) | 1 | 1 | | | | 12 |
| Total | 60 | 3 | 3 | | 2 | None 60 |

Clean Food

The outbreak of food poisoning which occurred in the Borough in July was due to *staphylococcus pyogenes* Group III. This organism is carried in the nose of normal persons and can quite easily contaminate the hands by nose blowing, sneezing and coughing, thereby getting on the food. It appears that this may have happened in this instance. Had the food been eaten immediately after being prepared, probably no harm would have been done, but it was prepared the previous day and kept until the next day at room temperature. The weather was extremely warm at the time and therefore the conditions at the canteen were very suitable for the growth of the organisms in large numbers. The conditions existing at the canteen can be blamed for the outbreak although the canteen is very well organized and is comparable with most food premises in the town. There are, however, no facilities for storing food in a cold store or refrigerator, but the staff are careful and make the best of the facilities available.

About a year ago, we suggested to the Council that a Clean Food Campaign would serve a useful purpose and we suggested that an Exhibition should be arranged in the town. The suggestion merits further consideration. We would, therefore, repeat some of the remarks made regarding the careful handling of food which appeared in the Report of the Catering Trade Working Party H.M.S.O. 1951. The remarks apply to all establishments selling food whether they be shops, canteens, hotels or the home.

The following risks should be guarded against:

1. Use of foods already infected when delivered to the establishments—staff can help by reporting to the management any abnormality in the food delivered, including damaged food cans.
2. Keeping food in such a way that organisms already present multiply rapidly. Food should be eaten the day it is cooked. If this is not possible, then it should be kept in a refrigerator, or, if this is not possible, in a cool ventilated cupboard. It should receive the minimum of handling. Tongs should be used for serving cream cakes, cooked meats, sweets, etc.
3. Contamination of food by animals, including rodents, flies, etc. Animals, e.g. cats and dogs, should not be allowed in shops and eating places.
4. Infection of the food by a member of the staff or a customer. Any persons handling food and who are suffering from colds, diarrhoea, etc., should scrub their hands after blowing the nose, using the toilet, etc.

The following foods are most dangerous as far as contamination is concerned:

- (1) Baked meat and made-up dishes that are not eaten fresh—including meat pies, brawns, stews, sausages, pressed beef, etc.
- (2) Gravies, sauces and soups if kept for long periods after mixing.
- (3) Milk and milk products, including custards, trifles, synthetic creams, jellies and cake fillings.
- (4) Shellfish and salads. Salads need careful washing and should not be allowed to stand in water for any length of time, especially in a warm room.
- (5) Duck eggs and egg powders—the former to be well washed and boiled for at least ten minutes, the latter to be mixed and used fresh.

No scraps of food should be left about to encourage vermin and flies.

Washing-up

It is most important that all utensils used in the cooking and serving food should be thoroughly washed and sterilised. After this, they should be stored in such a way that further contamination is not possible. Tea towels and tea cloths should be scrupulously clean and boiled daily.

There should be a washbasin with hot and cold water, nail brush, soap and towel for the use of the staff so that it is not necessary for them to wash their hands in the sink used for washing dishes, preparing vegetables, etc. Contaminated hands leave germs on door knobs, taps, etc., and this can cause further contamination.

Any coughs, sneezes, diarrhoea, throat and skin troubles, should be reported to the management immediately. All cuts, scratches, boils, etc., should be covered with a clean, waterproof dressing. Dirty bandages and dressings are a danger.

One should never lick fingers before handling food or food wrappers. Paper bags should not be blown into. Clean overalls (and head coverings in the case of females) should be worn at all times.

There should be no smoking at any time in the kitchens or in the rooms where food is prepared.

At the end of the year, copies of the Food Hygiene Regulations, 1956, were received. These regulations come into force on 1st January, 1956, and certain improvements will have to be carried out by 1st July, 1956. The regulations will strengthen the hands of the Local Authorities considerably in taking action where food premises are not up to standard. They provide for a constant supply of hot water to a separate washing-up sink and a wash handbasin, readily available first-aid materials, restriction of the use of tobacco where food is handled, lockers or a

separate room for storing out-door clothing belonging to the staff, certain types of wrapping paper and the temperature at which food is stored, etc.

Certificates of exemption may be granted by the Council, but a high standard should be aimed at from the beginning and should be applicable to public and private traders and to Local Authority canteens.

Every assistance will be given to anyone asking the Medical Officer or the Sanitary Inspector regarding the improvements to be carried out under these regulations.

The general public can play a major part in this campaign for clean food. They should frequent only those places which maintain a good standard of hygiene. They should refuse articles of food improperly served by handlers with dirty hands or dirty clothing, food exposed to flies, dust, etc. Any complaints to the Medical Officer or Sanitary Inspector will be investigated.

HOUSING

There are approximately 2,130 houses in the Borough of which 78 will be scheduled as unfit individually. It is unlikely that there will be any new clearance areas. Some of these unfit houses are in an old clearance area already scheduled. A large number of the remaining houses in the Borough require repair and improvement and progress in this direction is already being made.

The Council have built 190 new houses since the war and desire to build more. A scheme exists to build 24 further houses in Henllan but after this, due to extreme difficulty in acquiring sites, it is going to be almost impossible to proceed.

A recent compulsory purchase order was not confirmed by the Minister for the purchase of a derelict old clearance area site on which the Council wish to build flats. Further progress in easing the acute housing shortage in the town is likely to be held up.

Private development in the town is also prevented by the same lack of suitable sites.

The housing survey of the Borough was completed during the year. The necessary slum clearance report was considered by the Council and sent to the Ministry.

The survey revealed that there are 78 houses in the area which must be dealt with under the Slum Clearance Scheme comprising:

| | |
|--|----|
| (a) Houses in existing clearance areas | 28 |
| (b) Houses already subject to orders | 15 |
| (c) Houses to be dealt with under Section II, The Housing Act, 1936 | 35 |

It was also noted that in addition to these houses unfit for

habitation and considered beyond repair, a further 250 to 300 houses are in need of extensive repairs.

During the last three years the Council has anticipated the present slum clearance scheme by closing, and demolishing where possible, unfit houses as the opportunity arose to rehouse the tenants. In this manner, in addition to the 19 temporary dwellings closed at Alavowlia Camp, a further 30 houses have been dealt with under the amended provisions of the Housing Act, 1936.

It is essential to safeguard the health of these people living in houses which require repair and which lack modern conveniences as well as people living in slum dwellings. The Council will continue to require this substandard property to be put in order, but no power exists for requiring such commonplace necessities as hot water, baths and adequate conveniences in the modern sense. The Council has during the year agreed to a number of improvement grant proposals which will assist landlords to modernise property. However, it would appear very unlikely that the improvement grant scheme will lead to the modernising of more than a small fraction of the 300 houses in question.

Twelve occupied houses in existing Clearance Areas have been licensed for temporary occupation under the provisions of Section 6, The Housing Repairs and Rents Acts, 1954, during the year.

The number of applications for Certificates of Disrepair under the provisions of the above Rent Acts was two during the year. Both applications were granted and certificates issued.

The completion of the Housing Survey, and the preparation of necessary reports in connection with the Slum Clearance Scheme together with other new pressing duties such as those involved in meat inspection, and work in connection with improvement grant applications, subjected the Health Department to considerable pressure in 1955. Matters were not improved by difficulties in obtaining clerical assistance, and it is to be regretted that many other matters requiring attention have had to be neglected.

MILK SAMPLES

The attention was given to the milk supplied by the three milk retailers in the Borough and to the supply of milk to the schools.

Samples of milk were taken and tested at the Public Health Laboratory, Conway, with the following results:

| | Satisfactory | | Unsatisfactory |
|--------------------------|--------------|-----|----------------|
| Tuberculin Tested | 2 | ... | None |
| T.T. (Pasteurised) | 2 | ... | None |
| Pasteurised | 2 | ... | None |

ICE-CREAM SAMPLES

Samples of ice-cream were taken and tested at the Public Health Laboratory as follows:

| No. of Samples | Satisfactory | Unsatisfactory |
|----------------|--------------|----------------|
| 12 | 11 | 1 |

WATER SUPPLIES

The village of Henllan is supplied from the Hafod Reservoir by the Borough Council. This supply was regularly sampled—all samples proving satisfactory.

The supply to the town by the Denbigh Water Company was also regularly sampled and was found to be highly satisfactory.

Water provided by both the above supplies is chlorinated.

A number of outlying properties are supplied from the North Wales Counties Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders' private supply. This supply is highly satisfactory.

HOTELS AND PUBLIC HOUSES

There are 17 licensed premises in the area. All are provided with sinks with hot and cold water for glass washing. In many of these premises the sink is badly positioned behind the bar, no doubt to economise in space and to hide the sink from customers. This arrangement generally means that light at the sink is poor and the working position of persons using the sink is cramped.

Such arrangements are not conducive to the proper and efficient washing of glasses.

COMMON LODGING HOUSE

The one registered Common Lodging House in the Borough provides accommodation for 14 males. It has been well managed and maintained during the year.

RODENT CONTROL

The Council employs a full-time Rodent Operator to ensure proper control of pests within the Borough. The operator is responsible for routine examination of all premises and farms and for carrying out treatments required.

Domestic premises are treated free of charge by the Council; all other premises pay for treatments on a time and materials basis.

During the year, the town was found to be little troubled by rats. The sewers were test-baited and found to require very little attention. There appears to be a definite connection between the number of surface infestations found and the state of infestation of the sewers. Infestations when found appeared to be related

to some of the old brook culverts, access to which for treatment purposes is extremely difficult to obtain.

The total number of inspections made was 1,337. Thirty infestations were discovered, mostly of a minor nature, and 44 treatments (including retreatments) were carried out.

REFUSE COLLECTIONS AND DISPOSAL

Household refuse is collected weekly in all parts of the Borough other than a number of outlying farms and cottages where refuse is removed monthly or upon request.

Trade refuse is collected from business premises as part of the normal service and no charge is made. Every effort is made to collect the refuse from Food Premises at least twice weekly. It should be noted that special bins are provided by a contractor for the collection of waste food, in all parts of the Borough. The contractor collects twice a week from the street bins and daily from the larger food premises. Prompt attention by the contractor to any complaints and regular cleansing of the bins has rendered the scheme a success.

Refuse is disposed of by controlled tipping at Meifod Quarry, Henllan. The system is satisfactory and economical. Precautions are constantly taken at the tip to destroy insects, vermin, and weeds.

Six men are employed on the refuse collection and disposal service. A relief driver is also available for the lorries. Two refuse collection vehicles are required, one full-time and the second vehicle for three days per week.

Waste paper, scrap metals and rags are salvaged and sold. The Council have a contract with Messrs. Thames Board Mills Ltd. for the sale of paper. Ninety-five tons of paper were baled and sold in the course of the year.

SLAUGHTERING OF ANIMALS

Four private slaughterhouses are operated in different parts of the Borough. Three of the slaughterhouses are reasonably close together, the fourth is nearly three miles away in the village of Henllan. This dispersal does not facilitate the supervision of the premises and the inspection of meat therein.

Complaints have been received from time to time concerning two of the slaughterhouses which are near to dwellings and in a built-up area.

Animals slaughtered for human consumption were as follows :

| | Cattle excluding Cows | Cows | Calves | Sheep and Lambs | Pigs | Horses |
|---|-----------------------------|-------|--------|-----------------------|-------|--------|
| Number killed | 445 | 363 | 449 | 6,493 | 1,701 | None |
| All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci: Whole Carcases | — | 1 | 12 | 33 | 4 | — |
| Number inspected | 100% | 100% | 100% | 50% approx. | 100% | — |
| Carcases of which part of organ condemned | 31 | 42 | — | 69 | 11 | — |
| % of number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis or cysticerci..... | 7% | 11.9% | 2.5% | 1.5% | 1% | — |
| Tuberculosis : | | | | | | |
| Whole Carcases | — | 3 | — | — | — | — |
| Parts of Carcases | 5 | 4 | — | — | 31 | — |
| % | 1.1% | 1.9% | — | — | 1.8% | — |
| Cysticercosis | — | — | None | — | — | — |

A postmortem examination of the above carcasses was carried out and appropriate action was taken where diseased conditions were found. Diseased meat was disposed of by the butcher under the supervision of this department, the bulk of such meat being sold for processing for fertiliser and industrial fat.

Generally speaking, the animals brought to the slaughter-houses for slaughter are of prime quality. The number of casualty animals is low.

SALE OF FOOD IN SHOPS

Food retail shops were inspected and the following food was condemned and surrendered:

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Margarine | 7 lbs. | Soup | 2 lbs. |
| Butter | 30 lbs. | Cake | 42 lbs. |
| Ham | 226 lbs. | Fruit | 110 lbs. |
| Fish | 122 lbs. | Cream | 8 ozs. |
| Luncheon Meat | 23 lbs. | Evaporated Milk | 86 pts. |
| Tongues | 6 lbs. | Peas | 15 lbs. |
| Corned Beef | 27 lbs. | Beans | 4½ lbs. |
| Sausage | 14 lbs. | Tomatoes | 39½ lbs. |

We are grateful to Mr. T. H. Evans for the following information:

COUNTY OF DENBIGH

Particulars of samples taken under the Food and Drugs Act, in the Borough of Denbigh, during the year ended 31st December, 1955:

| Article | No. Taken | Genuine | Not Genuine, or Sub-standard |
|-----------------------------|--------------|---------|---------------------------------|
| MILK | 13 | 13 | — |
| Butter | 1 | 1 | — |
| Jam | 1 | 1 | — |
| Custard Powder | 1 | 1 | — |
| Double Cream | 1 | 1 | — |
| Ice-Cream | 1 | 1 | — |
| Sausages | 2 | 2 | — |
| Coffee | 1 | 1 | — |
| Brandy | 1 | 1 | — |
| Carbonate of Magnesia | 1 | 1 | — |
| Totals | 23 | 23 | — |

All the samples were certified by the Public Analyst to be free from all prohibited preservatives and colouring matter.

THOS. H. EVANS,

Chief Inspector,
County of Denbigh.

17 Vicarage Hill,
WREXHAM.
13th June, 1956.

We are grateful to the Secretary of the North Wales Counties Hospital for Mental and Nervous Disorders, Denbigh, for the following information:

RAINFALL AT MENTAL HOSPITAL GARDENS IN 1955

| Month | Total Depth | Number of days with | |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|--------------|
| | | .01" or more | .04" or more |
| January. | 2.83 | 16 | 14 |
| February. | 3.13 | 20 | 18 |
| March. | 1.98 | 6 | 6 |
| April. | .64 | 7 | 5 |
| May. | 3.04 | 21 | 21 |
| June. | 2.39 | 12 | 11 |
| July. | 0.48 | 2 | 2 |
| August. | 1.87 | 9 | 6 |
| September. | 1.67 | 11 | 10 |
| October. | 2.67 | 15 | 13 |
| November. | 1.71 | 14 | 9 |
| December. | 3.17 | 24 | 20 |
| Total. | 25.58 | 157 | 135 |

GENERAL NOTICES, &c.

Visits to premises in the course of the year were as follows:

| | | |
|----------------------|-----|-------------|
| Food and Drugs | 957 | Inspections |
| Public Health | 623 | „ |
| Housing | 301 | „ |
| Factories | 56 | „ |
| General | 118 | „ |

Forty-six premises were found to require structural repairs. Informal notices were sent to owners.

Nine Statutory notices were served under the provisions of the Housing Acts—all were complied with.

Inspection or testing of the drainage of fifty-six premises was carried out during the year. Informal notices were sent for the repair or cleansing of drains. All notices were complied with.

Seventeen complaints of nuisances other than the above were dealt with. Informal action secured the abatement of these nuisances.

Six premises were disinfected of cockroaches. Two houses were found to be in a filthy state.

No legal proceedings have been instituted under the above Acts during the year.

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